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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

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DEMOCRACY

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2005: CIVIC POWER AND ELECTORAL POLITICS

Freedom House. December 20, 2004

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/survey2005.htm>

According to this new survey, 89 countries of the world are rated "Free", meaning that their combined 2.8 billion inhabitants (44 percent of the world's population) enjoy a broad range of rights. Fifty-four countries representing 1.2 billion people (19 percent) are considered "Partly Free". Political rights and civil liberties are more limited in these countries, in which corruption, dominant ruling parties, or, in some cases, ethnic or religious strife are often the norm. The survey finds that 49 countries are "Not Free". The 2.4 billion inhabitants (37 percent) of these countries, nearly three-fifths of whom live in China, are denied most basic political rights and civil liberties. According to the survey, the following countries have the lowest rating: Burma, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Turkmenistan.

[HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH] WORLD REPORT 2005

Human Rights Watch (HRW). January 13, 2005

<http://www.hrw.org/wr2k5/wr2005.pdf>

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The Human Rights Watch World Report 2005 contains survey information on human rights developments in more than 60 countries in 2004. HRW notes that the inclusion of only 60 countries does not mean that these are the only countries with human rights issues; rather it reflects staffing limitations that prevent the organization from addressing every human rights problem in the world. Each country entry identifies significant human rights issues, examines the freedom of local human rights defenders to conduct their work, and surveys the response of key international actors, such as the United Nations, European Union, Japan, the United States, and various regional and international organizations and institutions.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

2005 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Marc A. Miles, Edwin Feulner and Mary Anastasia O'Grady, editors

Heritage Foundation; Wall Street Journal. January 2005

<http://www.heritage.org/research/features/index/downloads.cfm>

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This 11th edition of the Index documents the correlation between freedom and prosperity. Countries that improve their scores in the 10 categories measured—trade policy, fiscal burden of government, government intervention in the economy, monetary policy, capital flows and foreign investment, banking and finance, wages and prices, property rights, regulation and informal (or black) market activity—tend to see their standards of living and per capita incomes rise. Data gathered for the 2005 Index show a net increase in global economic freedom. Of the 155 countries analyzed, 86 scored better this year than last year and 12 had unchanged scores. The scores of 57 countries were worse than last year. Overall, 17 countries are classified as having “free” economies, 56 as “mostly free,” 70 as “mostly unfree” and 12 as “repressed.”

A PRACTICAL PLAN TO ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN Millennium Project. January 17, 2005

http://unmp.forumone.com/eng_full_report/MainReportComplete-lowres.pdf

This document, created with the input of 265 of the world's leading development experts today proposes a package of dozens of specific cost-effective measures that together could cut extreme poverty in half and radically improve the lives of at least one billion people in poor developing countries by 2015. The report notes that targeted investments in essential public services such as health, education and infrastructure make poor communities less vulnerable to natural disasters and to the hardships of disease, hunger and environmental degradation.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT: FISCAL YEAR 2006

Executive Office of the President. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). February 2, 2005

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy06/browse.html>

This is the most recent budget proposal put forward by President Bush's administration. It contains the Budget Message of the President, information on the President's budget and management priorities, and budget overviews organized by agency, including assessments of their performance. The Appendix contains more detailed financial information on individual programs and appropriation accounts than any of the other budget documents. It includes for each agency: the proposed text of appropriations language, budget schedules for each account, new legislative proposals, explanations of the work to be performed and the funds needed, and proposed general provisions applicable to the appropriations of entire agencies or group of agencies.

CAFTA-DR BRIEFING BOOK

Executive Office of the President. Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). February 2005

http://www.ustr.gov/Trade_Agreements/Bilateral/CAFTA-DR/Briefing_Book/Section_Index.html

This site is an excellent source for fact sheets and other materials concerning the Central America - Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). Most of the Policy Briefs are from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), but there are links to materials produced by the International Trade Administration (ITA) and other organizations. Included in the “Briefing Book” are the following sections: Full Text of the Agreement; Textos del CAFTA en Espanol; State-by-State Export Overview; Details on Agriculture Provisions in CAFTA; Details on Textile Provisions of the CAFTA; Strengthening Protections for Labor; CAFTA Is Jordan-Plus: Comparison of Labor Provisions of Recent FTAs; Labor Laws: What The ILO Says; Environmental “Firsts” in CAFTA; Ethanol in the CAFTA; CAFTA and Access to Medicines.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (DR-CAFTA) WITH THE UNITED STATES [RL32322]

K. Larry Storrs, Clare Ribando, Lenore Sek, Mark P. Sullivan, Maureen Taft-Morales, and Connie Veillette

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated November 12, 2004

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/library/downloads/keyWorkplaceDocuments/CRS/CrscentralAmerica.pdf>

This report provides background on the political and economic conditions in five countries in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua) and one country in the Caribbean (Dominican Republic) that will be partners with the United States in the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) if it is approved by Congress. The Administration reached agreement with four of the Central American countries in December 2003, with Costa Rica in January 2004, and with the Dominican Republic in March 2004. The Central American countries and the United States signed the CAFTA agreement on May 28, 2004, and all of the partners signed the DR-CAFTA agreement on August 5, 2004. The Administration will decide

when to submit the package to Congress for approval. The other regional partners are required to submit the agreement to their respective legislatures for approval as well.

CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT FREE TRADE WITH CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC [Heritage Backgrounder #1822]

Brett D. Schaefer and Stephen Johnson

Heritage Foundation. February 8, 2005

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=74418>

The authors argue that despite flaws in the Dominican Republic–Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR–CAFTA), the benefits are such that Congress should approve the agreement. Schaefer and Johnson highlight four major benefits that they argue would follow from implementing DR–CAFTA:

- * Elimination of barriers to goods, services, and agricultural commodities
- * Enhanced economic opportunities in Central America and the Dominican Republic
- * Economic liberalization
- * Improvement in labor and environmental standards

Critics of DR–CAFTA have argued that the agreement would lower labor and environmental standards. The authors of this paper contend that: “Economic studies show that the single greatest cause of environmental degradation and low labor standards is poverty. Wealthier societies are more likely to demand and implement greater environmental and labor protections because they can better afford the costs of those policies.”

CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION HANDBOOK

Luc De Wulf and José B. Sokol, editors

World Bank. Web-posted February 3, 2005

[http://www-](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2005/02/03/000090341_20050203145443/Rendered/PDF/31477.pdf)

[wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2005/02/03/000090341_20050203145443/Rendered/PDF/31477.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2005/02/03/000090341_20050203145443/Rendered/PDF/31477.pdf)

The Trade Department of the World Bank prepared this Customs Modernization Handbook to provide guidance to the many organizations and individuals involved in the preparation and implementation of customs modernization projects. The Handbook draws on the lessons learned from past successes and failures, both by the Bank itself and a range of other organizations. For many countries, achieving efficiency and transparency in customs operations remains a formidable challenge. In 2002, over US\$6.3 trillion of goods crossed international borders. Each one of those shipments passed through customs controls at least twice—at entry and at exit. Customs services have often had to cope with these growing trade volumes without any commensurate increase in staff or resources.

E-COMMERCE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2004

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). December 15, 2004

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ecdr2004_en.pdf

This report is intended to provide policy-makers and practitioners with information and analysis to better assess the implications of the growing role of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in economic development. These technologies have considerable potential to promote development and economic growth. They can foster innovation and improve productivity, reduce transaction costs and make available rich stores of global knowledge. In developing countries, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the use of ICTs can bring impressive gains in employment, gender equality and standards of living.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS REPORT (IPES) IPES 2005. UNLOCKING CREDIT: THE QUEST FOR DEEP AND STABLE BANK LENDING

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). November 2004

<http://www.iadb.org/res/ipres/2005/index.cfm?language=EN&parid=1>

This report analyzes the macroeconomic, institutional, and microeconomic aspects of the credit sector and proposes options and policies to support the deep and stable bank lending necessary to strengthen economic development. Providing a safe set of institutions to protect savings, allocate resources efficiently, and support the efficient handling of financial transactions is crucial for development. In comparison with other regions, according to this report, the development of efficient banking and credit systems in the Latin America and the Caribbean region has been slower than in other regions: “Despite the fact that the current level of credit to the private sector in Latin America and the Caribbean compares favorably with the level observed in the past, other groups of developing countries have experienced much faster development of their banking industries.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE: U.S. TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING EXTENSIVE, BUT ITS EFFECTIVENESS HAS YET TO BE EVALUATED. [GAO-05-150]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). February 11, 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05150.pdf>

U.S. trade capacity building is primarily a collection of existing trade and development activities placed under the umbrella of trade capacity building. The U.S. government initiated an annual government-wide survey in 2001 to identify U.S. trade capacity building efforts, which it defined as "assistance meant to help countries become aware of and accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO); implement WTO agreements; and build the physical, human, and institutional capacity to benefit from trade." U.S. agencies self-reported that they had provided almost \$2.9 billion in trade capacity building assistance to over 100 countries from fiscal years 2001 through 2004. The Agency for International Development (USAID) reported providing about 71 percent of the trade capacity building funding. Agencies are coordinating their assistance through the trade capacity building interagency group formed in 2002 to help countries negotiate and implement U.S. free trade agreements.

FREE TRADE IN THE AMERICAS: GETTING THERE FROM HERE

Carla A. Hills, Jaime Zabludovsky, Jeffrey J. Schott, Marcos Sawaya Jank and Zuleika Arashiro

Inter-American Dialogue. October 2004

http://www.thedialogue.org/publications/program_reports/trade/ftaa_1004.pdf

The first paper in this report is Jeffrey J. Schott's "Whither the Free Trade Area of the Americas. He provides a cogent analysis of where the parties are, what they must do to achieve success, and when this could happen. He urges a big package of market access reforms. The second paper, "The Long and Winding Road to Hemispheric Integration: Ten Key Elements in Understanding the FTAA," was written by Jaime Zabludovsky. He provides a clear picture of the imbalance between the objectives of the United States and the Mercosur nations, outlines three possible outcomes, and explains the limitations of each. The final paper, "Free Trade in the Americas: Where Are We? Where Could We Be Headed?", was written by Marcos Sawaya Jank, with the assistance of Zuleika Arashiro. Jank and Arashiro describe three possible outcomes for the FTAA, pointing out the weaknesses that he perceives in each, and setting forth a way in which they believe the negotiations might be invigorated.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE. ANNUAL REPORT

World Economic Forum, Global Governance Initiative. January 24, 2005.

http://www.weforum.org/pdf/ggi2005_low.pdf

This second annual report of the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) provides a comprehensive analysis of the world's progress towards realizing the UN's Millennium Declaration Goals, endorsed by leaders of 189 countries in 2000. The report is the culmination of a year-long independent analysis by seven groups of some of the world's leading experts in peace and security, poverty, hunger, education, health and environmental protection. The report concludes that "The world remains far off track to achieve its most important goals."

[INDEPENDENT INQUIRY COMMITTEE INTO THE UNITED NATIONS OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAMME]

Briefing Paper

United Nations Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme. January 9, 2004

<http://www.iic-offp.org/documents/IAD%20Briefing%20Paper.pdf>

[Note: In April 2004, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed an independent, high-level inquiry to investigate the administration and management of the Oil-for-Food Programme in Iraq. Following this, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1538 (2004), which endorses the inquiry and calls for full cooperation in the investigation by all United Nations officials and personnel, the coalition Provisional Authority, Iraq, and all other Member States, including their national regulatory authorities. The appointed Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) is chaired by Paul Volcker, former Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve. Committee Members are Mark Pieth of Switzerland, an expert on money-laundering in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Richard Goldstone of South Africa, former Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.]

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: ACCESS, QUALITY, COSTS AND POLICY REFORM [World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3468]

Cecilia Briceño-Garmendia, Antonio Estache and Nemat Shafik

World Bank. December 30, 2004

http://econ.worldbank.org/files/40996_wps3468.pdf

This report reviews the evidence on the state of infrastructure in the developing world, emphasizing the investment needs and the emerging policy issues. Despite encountering significant data gaps in some areas, the authors provide useful insights on the main challenges ahead, emphasizing that, in addition to the widely discussed access problems, the poorest also face major affordability and service quality issues which were not well addressed by the reforms of the 1990s. The authors make a case for a stronger commitment of the international community to generate the information needed to assess and monitor infrastructure needs and policies.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM RECENT ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Carsten Fink and Keith E. Maskus, editors

World Bank and Oxford University Press. Web-posted January 11, 2005

http://www.worldbank.org/research/IntellProp_temp.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The editors of this volume initially set out to answer what they thought was a simple enough question: what are the international economic implications of the intellectual property rules mandated by the WTO's Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)? The results of the individual research reports in this compilation indicate there is no single "one-size-fits-all" answer. Fink and Maskus argue that international trade agreements must now specifically consider each developing country's capacity to innovate, its technological requirements, its institutional capabilities, and the general need to promote poor people's access to pharmaceutical products.

INTERIM REPORT [Oil-for-Food Program]

Paul Volcker, Richard J. Goldstone and Mark Pieth

Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme. February 3, 2005

<http://www.iic-offp.org/documents/InterimReportFeb2005.pdf>

[Note: See also the 6-page accompanying document, Comparison of Estimates of Illicit Iraqi Income During United Nations Sanctions, at <http://www.iic-offp.org/documents/ComparisonofEstimates.pdf>]

This is the highly publicized interim report by the Independent Inquiry Committee, the United Nations-appointed panel headed by Paul A. Volcker investigating the \$64 billion United Nations oil-for-food program in Iraq. The final report is due out in June 2005. Among the many points made in the report, the panel members claim that Benon V. Sevan, the former head of the program, had violated the United Nations Charter by helping a company owned by a friend to obtain valuable contracts to sell Iraqi oil. The report depicts the oil-for-food program, the United Nations' largest relief effort, as hampered by mismanagement and suffused with political favoritism. The conduct of Sevan, who ran the program from 1997 until its demise in 2003, was a "grave and continuing conflict of interest" and had "seriously undermined the integrity of the United Nations," the report concludes. The report also criticizes the UN for leaving large parts of the program unaudited, which allowed Saddam Hussein's kickback schemes from companies selling his oil to go undetected.

POOR PEOPLE'S KNOWLEDGE: PROMOTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

J. Michael Finger and Philip Schuler, editors

World Bank and Oxford University Press. Web-posted January 11, 2005

http://www.worldbank.org/research/Poor_Peoples_Knowledge.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Since the agreements reached at the Uruguay Round came into effect in 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) has more or less defined the discussion of intellectual property (IP) and development. This agreement, as the editors note, is about knowledge that exists in developed countries, about developing countries' access to that knowledge, and particularly about developing countries paying for that access. This volume is about knowledge that exists or might be created in developing countries.

THE ECONOMICS OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT [RL31235]

Brian W. Cashell

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated January 28, 2005

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/RL31235.pdf>

In FY1998, federal budget receipts exceeded outlays for the first time since 1969. Those surpluses continued through FY2001. At one time, those surpluses had been projected to continue, but conditions have since changed. The economy went into recession in 2001, and a stimulus package was enacted. Since then, the budget has been in deficit. The actual unified budget deficit for FY2004 was \$412.1 billion. In January 2005, the Congressional Budget Office projected that there would be a budget deficit of \$368 billion in FY2005, and a deficit of \$295 billion in FY2006.

TOWARD A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT IN LATIN AMERICA

Nancy Birdsall and Rachel Menezes

Center for Global Development; Inter-American Dialogue. December 28, 2004

http://www.cgdev.org/docs/CGDev-IAD_Brief_6a.pdf.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This policy brief asserts that new economic revitalization standards are needed in Latin America to counteract deep-seated frustration over the lackluster performance of the last decade: "More than a decade of renewed democracy and open market economic reforms have failed to deliver much growth or social progress, causing a spiral of anxiety and deep frustration in the region— with the political process, with political leadership, and with the way democracy is working.

The authors propose reforms in four major areas in order to reinvigorate economic expansion while simultaneously allowing lower and middle classes in the region to partake more fully in this growth:

- * A radical fiscal policy aimed at creating a strong fiscal base and lower interest rates.
- * A fair fiscal system that makes taxes and expenditures more progressive.
- * Job creation and protection of workers' rights.
- * Access to rich country markets.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE 109TH CONGRESS [IB10123]

Ian F. Fergusson and Lenore M. Sek

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated January 19, 2005

<http://www.house.gov/htbin/crsprodget?/IB10123/site=collinpeterhouse.house.gov>

The United States is participating in several regional and bilateral trade negotiations. Agreements were concluded and became effective during the 108th Congress with Australia, Chile, Morocco, and Singapore. Agreements have been signed with the five countries of the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Dominican Republic, and with Bahrain. Negotiations are underway with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), Panama, and Thailand. Talks with the Andean nations of Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador began in May 2004. Negotiations are expected to begin with the United Arab Emirates and Oman early in 2005. Several other trade initiatives are under discussion, including a U.S.-Middle East FTA and an FTA with countries in southeast Asia.

EDUCATION

MONITORING FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES: THE STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEVIS) [RL32188]

Alison Siskin

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated October 20, 2004

<http://hutchison.senate.gov/RL32188.pdf>

There has been increased interest in monitoring foreign students while maintaining the long tradition of permitting international scholars to study in the United States. There are three main avenues for students from other countries to temporarily come to the United States to study, and each involves admission as a nonimmigrant. The three visa categories used by foreign students are: F visas for academic study; M visas for vocational study; and J visas for cultural exchange. Recently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) implemented an electronic foreign student monitoring system.

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE DATA: INSIGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Kevin Baumert and Jonathon Pershing, with contributions from Timothy Herzog and Matthew Markoff

Pew Center on Global Climate Change. December 2004

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Climate%20Data%20new%2Epdf>

Baumert, Pershing, Herzog and Markoff of the World Resources Institute (WRI), draw policy-relevant observations from a comprehensive database of emissions, energy, economic and other data assembled by WRI and called the "Climate Analysis Indicators Tool". The report focuses largely on the 25 countries with the largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Among the authors' findings:

* A relatively small number of countries produce a large majority of global GHG emissions, and most also rank among the world's most populous countries and those with the largest economies. The group includes almost an equal number of developed and developing countries, as well as economies in transition.

* Per capita emissions and per capita income vary widely among the major emitters, a group that includes some of the world's richest and poorest countries.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE [IB89005]

John R. Justus and Susan R. Fletcher

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated October 29, 2004

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/crs/ib89005.pdf>

Following President Bush's decision in 2001 to withdraw the United States from participation in the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), congressional attention to climate change has focused largely on domestic action in the energy arena, as well as registering and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions. A number of climate-related provisions were included in the Senate energy bill, but were not accepted by the conference committee. The energy bill conference report, without climate provisions, was approved by the House of Representatives on November 18, 2003, but failed on November 21 to obtain votes for cloture in the Senate. S. 139, a bill to provide a greenhouse gas cap and trade system in the United States, was considered by the Senate on October 30 and failed to pass by a vote of 43-55.

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE EFFORTS BEYOND 2012: A SURVEY OF APPROACHES

Daniel Bodansky, with contributions from Sophie Chou and Christie Jorge-Tresolini

Pew Center on Global Climate Change. December 2004

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/2012%20new%2Epdf>

This report surveys and synthesizes more than 40 proposed approaches for strengthening international climate efforts beyond 2012. Some of the proposals included in the report build on the basic architecture of the Kyoto Protocol—for example, by extending the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) or by outlining a pathway towards broader participation. Others depart by varying degrees from the existing architecture—for example, by articulating a different type of commitment (policies and measures rather than quantitative emissions targets); a different negotiating process (national pledges rather than internationally-negotiated commitments); or a different forum (a smaller group of countries rather than a global process).

THE COST OF U.S. FOREST-BASED CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Robert N. Stavins and Kenneth R. Richards

Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Web-posted January 19, 2005

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Sequest%5FFinal%2Epdf>

Cost-effective climate change policies should include storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in U.S. forests, according to this report from the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Most analyses of the climate issue have tended to focus on the implications of reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from key industrial and transportation sources. Less attention is paid to the potential for storing (or "sequestering") carbon in forests and other ecosystems. Both emissions reduction and carbon sequestration are important strategies for addressing climate change.

GLOBAL ISSUES

2004: A DARK AND DEADLY YEAR FOR JOURNALISTS

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). January 18, 2005

http://www.harlandco.com/download/kill_list_2004_lores.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This latest annual report from the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) notes that 129 journalists and media employees were killed last year, the worst 12-month toll on record. The report "reveals how journalists and media employees in every corner of the globe have been targeted, brutalized and done to death by the enemies of press freedom. Some have been deliberately sought out by crooks and hired assassins. Others have been gunned down as a result of nervous, unruly and ill-disciplined soldiering."

MAPPING THE GLOBAL FUTURE: REPORT OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL'S 2020 PROJECT

National Intelligence Council. December 2004; Web-posted January 13, 2005

<http://www.foia.cia.gov/2020/2020.pdf>

This is the third unclassified report by the national Intelligence Council (NIC) that takes a long-term view of the future -- to the year 2020, in this case-- and tries to develop plausible scenarios about some of the major drivers that are likely to shape changes around the world. The individual chapters contain summaries of the thinking of world experts on various issues. The evolving framework of international politics in all the scenarios suggests that non-state actors will continue to assume a more prominent role even though they will not displace the nation-state. Such actors range from terrorists, who will remain a threat to global security, to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and global firms.

NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY REVIEW 2004

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). 2004

http://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC48/Documents/gc48inf-4_new.pdf

This review - issued every two years and updated annually - reports on the global status and trends in fields of nuclear science and technology. Topics covered include: nuclear power development, including innovative reactors and fuel cycle approaches; nuclear applications in fields of health, agriculture, water, and other areas; nuclear information and knowledge management; and issues of sustainable development in which nuclear technologies may play an important role. Besides providing an overview of the state of the art of nuclear technology in those areas, the annexes provide useful information on other nuclear technology issues.

REPORT ON GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM [2004]

United States Department of State. January 5, 2005

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/40258.htm>

The Global Anti-Semitism Review Act, Public Law 108-332, signed by the president October 16, 2004, mandated this special report to Congress

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ332.108.pdf

Acknowledging that there is no single universally-accepted definition of anti-Semitism, the report adopts the following characterization of the term: ". . . hatred toward Jews—individually and as a group—that can be attributed to the Jewish religion and/or ethnicity. An important issue is the distinction between legitimate criticism of policies and practices of the State of Israel, and commentary that assumes an anti-Semitic character. The demonization of Israel, or vilification of Israeli leaders, sometimes through comparisons with Nazi leaders, and through the use of Nazi symbols to caricature them, indicates an anti-Semitic bias rather than a valid criticism of policy concerning a controversial issue."

THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET

Susannah Fox, Janna Quitney Anderson and Lee Rainie

Pew Internet & American Life Project. January 9, 2005

http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Future_of_Internet.pdf

This wide-ranging survey of 1,286 technology leaders, scholars, industry officials, and analysts finds that most internet experts expect attacks on the network infrastructure in the coming decade as the internet becomes more embedded in everyday and commercial life. Two-thirds (66%) of the experts responding to a survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project and Elon University agreed with the following prediction: At least one devastating attack will occur in the next 10 years on the networked information infrastructure or the United States power grid.

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2005

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc05/english/index.html>

December 2004 saw the release of The State of the World's Children 2005 report from the international organization UNICEF, and it contained some rather troubling findings. Based on the material in this report, more than one billion children are denied the healthy and protected upbringing promised by 1989's Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the world's most widely adopted human rights treaty. The report examines three of the most widespread and devastating factors threatening childhood today, namely HIV/AIDS, poverty, and conflict. Visitors to the site are encouraged to download the entire report, which contains five chapters, four maps, and 10 statistical tables. Those pressed for time may also want to browse through the supplementary section on each of the three factors mentioned above. Here they will find short video clips of interviews with UNICEF program officers and interactive features on such topics as measuring child poverty. It is worth mentioning that the report is also available in both Spanish and French.

THE WORLD FACTBOOK 2004

United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Directorate of Intelligence. December 2004

<http://www.cia.gov/search?NS-collection=World%20Factbook>

In this latest edition of this CIA annual publication, country information has been updated as of 16 December, 2004. There have been some significant changes to this edition of The World Factbook. Recent confirmation that the United Kingdom Government administers the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia on Cyprus as dependencies (and not as lease areas like the US Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba) has required a changing of their status and their addition to the Factbook as new entities. In addition, the European Union has been included as an "Other" entity at the end of the listing. The European Union continues to accrue more nation-like characteristics for itself and so a separate listing seems warranted. Along with the new entities and the regular information updates, The World Factbook now also features five new fields. In the Economy category, entries have been added for Current account balance, Investment (gross fixed), Public debt, and Reserves of foreign exchange and gold. The Transnational issues category has a new Refugees and internally displaced persons entry.

TSUNAMIS: MONITORING, DETECTION, AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS. [RL32739]

Wayne A. Morrissey

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. January 24, 2005

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/RL32739.pdf>

Members of Congress have raised concerns about the adequacy of early warning for coastal areas of the western Atlantic Ocean. Those concerns stem from the December 26, 2004, tsunami that devastated many coastal areas around the northern Indian Ocean, where very few tsunami early warning systems currently operate. Affected nations, assisted by others, are pursuing a multilateral effort to develop a detection and warning network for the Indian Ocean. Also, some Members of Congress and the Bush Administration have proposed a tsunami warning network for the U.S. Atlantic seaboard. Although instrumentation costs could run into the millions of dollars, existing weather buoys and state and local coastal and ocean observation networks might serve as possible platforms for the instrumentation. The European Union, Canada, and the United States may consider multilateral efforts to establish coverage for the North Atlantic.

HIV/AIDS

"3 x 5" REPORT

World Health Organization (WHO); United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). December 2004; Web-posted January 26, 2005

<http://www.who.int/3by5/en/ProgressReportfinal.pdf>

On World AIDS Day 2003, WHO and UNAIDS set an ambitious target that 3 million people living with HIV/AIDS in developing and transitional countries would be receiving antiretroviral therapy by 2005. This "3 by 5" target was received with understandable skepticism. WHO and UNAIDS note that by December 2004 approximately 700,000 are receiving antiretroviral (ARV) therapy.

BUSINESS AND HIV/AIDS: COMMITMENT AND ACTION?

World Economic Forum, Global Health Initiative; UNAIDS. January 20, 2005

http://www.weforum.org/pdf/Initiatives/GHI_Report_2005_Final.pdf

Businesses rarely draw up written policies to tackle HIV/AIDS until 20% of the country's population is infected, according to this global survey on the impact of that disease on business. Despite the fact that 14,000 people contract HIV/AIDS every day, concern among businesses has dropped by 23% in the last 12 months, with most companies (71%) having no policies in place to address the disease. Over 65% of the business leaders surveyed could not say or estimate the prevalence of HIV within their own workforce. Across sub-Saharan Africa, even in countries with an HIV prevalence of 10-19%, only around 7% of companies have formal HIV/AIDS policies in place. The gap between prevalence and policies may be greatest in China, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Russia, the so-called "next wave" countries, which are predicted to experience the highest numbers of new HIV/AIDS cases worldwide by 2010.

GLOBAL HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC: SELECTION OF ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICATIONS PROVIDED UNDER U.S. EMERGENCY PLAN IS LIMITED [GAO-05-133]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). January 11, 2005; Web-posted January 27, 2005
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05133.pdf>

In developing countries, only about 7 percent of people with HIV/AIDS receive treatment. In 2003, the Congress authorized the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a 5-year, \$15 billion initiative under the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. The Emergency Plan focuses on 15 developing countries, with a goal of supporting treatment for 2 million people. Treatment regimens use multiple antiretroviral medications (ARV), which can be original or generic. Fixed-dose combinations (FDC) combine two or three ARVs into one pill. Questions have been raised about whether the plan is providing ARVs preferred by the focus countries at reasonable prices. GAO compared the selection of ARVs provided under the plan with that provided under other major treatment initiatives, compared the prices of those selections, and determined what the Coordinator's Office is doing to expand the plan's selection of quality-assured lower-priced ARVs.

LAW ENFORCEMENT/SECURITY/ILLEGAL DRUGS

9 TO 5: DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR BOSS KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE? CASE STUDIES OF RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION USAGE IN THE WORKPLACE

Edward Balkovich, Tora K. Bikson and Gordon Bitko
RAND. Web-posted January 25, 2005

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2005/RAND_TR197.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report describes case studies of six enterprises that use Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags to control access in the workplace. Access cards are often used in the workplace to control entry to facilities. RFID tags are usually embedded in small plastic objects that can be attached to key rings, or in a card similar to a credit card. In the latter case, photographs or text can be printed on the card to provide visible information about its bearer. An access card is typically issued to and used by a single individual—like a key—to gain entry to physical facilities (such as a building or a room within a building). Data describing a card's use by an individual employee can be collected by an access control system and analyzed. This common deployment of RFID technology raises concerns of personal convenience, security, and privacy when access cards are used. RFID policies have a number of common features, but the policies are neither documented nor shared with employees.

2005 IDENTITY FRAUD SURVEY REPORT [Abridged]

Better Business Bureau (BBB); Javelin Strategy and Research. January 26, 2005

<http://www.javelinstrategy.com/reports/documents/2005ComplimentaryReport.pdf>

[Note: The full version of this report (162 pages) is available for purchase for \$2,500. There is an 82-page version available for purchase for \$1,500]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report provides an analysis of identity fraud in the United States, in order to better understand methods for prevention, detection and resolution. Co-released by Javelin Strategy & Research and the Better Business Bureau (BBB), this report is issued as an update to the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC's) 2003 Identity Theft Survey Report. The survey finds that incidents of identity fraud declined from 2003 (10.1 million incidents) to 2004 (9.3 million incidents). The most frequently reported source of information used to commit fraud was a lost or stolen wallet or checkbook. Computer crimes accounted for just 11.6 percent of all known-cause identity fraud in 2004; and half of these digitally driven crimes stem from spyware,

AFGHANISTAN: NARCOTICS AND U.S. POLICY

Christopher M. Blanchard

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. December 7, 2004

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/crs/rl32686.pdf>

Opium poppy cultivation and drug trafficking have become significant factors in Afghanistan's fragile political and economic order over the last 25 years. Since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001, Afghanistan has become the source of 87% of the world's illicit opium and heroin, in spite of ongoing efforts by the Afghan government, the United States, and their international partners to combat poppy cultivation and drug trafficking. Across Afghanistan, regional warlords, criminal organizations, and corrupt government officials continue to exploit opium production and trafficking as reliable sources of revenue and patronage, which perpetuates the threat these groups pose to the country's internal security and the legitimacy of its embryonic democratic government. Afghanistan; planned opium poppy eradication; and funding issues for Congress.

ASYLUM SEEKERS IN EXPEDITED REMOVAL: A STUDY AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 605 OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1998

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. (USCIRF). February 8, 2005

http://www.uscifr.gov/reports/ERSrpt/ERS_RptVolII.pdf

[Note: The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was established by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA). USCIRF is an independent and bipartisan federal agency created to monitor religious freedom in other countries and advise the President, Secretary of State and Congress on how best to promote it]

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA), the most comprehensive immigration reform legislation in over 30 years. Among other reforms, the legislation established "Expedited Removal", which was intended to strengthen the security of America's borders, without closing them to those fleeing persecution. Specifically, prior to IIRAIRA, immigration inspectors could not compel an improperly documented alien to depart the United States. The inspector had the discretion to offer the alien the opportunity to withdraw his application for admission, or to refer the alien to an immigration judge for a hearing.

DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS 2005

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). January 12, 2005

<http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2005/document/pdf/DGA2005.pdf>

This sixth edition of Dietary Guidelines for Americans places stronger emphasis on reducing calorie consumption and increasing physical activity. This joint project of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture is the latest of the five-year reviews required by federal law. It is the basis of federal food programs and nutrition education programs and supports the nutrition and physical fitness pillars of President Bush's Healthier US Initiative. Eating a healthy balance of nutritious foods continues as a central point in the Dietary Guidelines, but balancing nutrients is not enough for health. Total calories also count, especially as more Americans are gaining weight. Because almost two-thirds of Americans are overweight or obese, and more than half get too little physical activity, the 2005 Dietary Guidelines place a stronger emphasis on calorie control and physical activity.

DRUGS OF ABUSE

United States Department of Justice. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). 2005

<http://www.dea.gov/pubs/abuse/doa-p.pdf>

This 2005 edition of Drugs of Abuse is a very useful compendium of information concerning drugs that are illegal and/or drugs of abuse in the United States. The publication begins with an overview of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), Schedules I-V of controlled substance classification and a one-page chart of federal drug trafficking penalties, categorized by substance and by quantity found in possession. There follow chapters of descriptions of the main types narcotics, stimulants, depressants, cannabis, hallucinogens, inhalants and steroids.

FIFTEEN YEARS OF GUIDELINES SENTENCING: AN ASSESSMENT OF HOW WELL THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF SENTENCING REFORM

United States Sentencing Commission. November 2004

http://www.ussc.gov/15_year/executive_summary_and_preface.pdf

http://www.ussc.gov/15_year/15year.htm

http://www.ussc.gov/15_year/15_year_study_full.pdf

[Note: The full report takes a long time to download; users may wish to either download just the Executive Summary or go to the Table of Contents page and select portions of the report]

This study is a comprehensive review of the research literature and sentencing data to assess how well the guidelines have achieved the goals for sentencing reform established by Congress in the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. These goals include increased certainty and transparency of sentences, increased severity of sentences for certain types of serious crimes, and reduced sentencing disparity, including racial and ethnic disparity.

LATIN AMERICA: TERRORISM ISSUES [RS21049]

Mark P. Sullivan

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated January 14, 2005

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RS21049.pdf>

In the aftermath of the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C., U.S. attention to terrorism in Latin America intensified, with an increase in bilateral and regional cooperation. Latin American nations strongly condemned the attacks, and took action through the Organization of American States (OAS) to strengthen hemispheric cooperation. In June 2002, OAS members signed an Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism. President Bush submitted the convention to the Senate in November 2002 for its advice and consent, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a public hearing on June 17, 2004. In its annual report on worldwide terrorism, the State Department highlights threats in Colombia, Peru, and the tri-border region of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. The State Department also has designated four terrorist groups (three in Colombia and one in Peru) as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, and Cuba has been listed as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1982.

TERRORISM AND NATIONAL SECURITY: ISSUES AND TRENDS [IB10119]

Raphael Perl

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated December 21, 2004

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/IB10119.pdf>

On December 17, 2004, President Bush signed the National Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (S. 2845, P.L. 108-458), establishing the position of Director of National Intelligence (a position separate from that of Director of Central Intelligence) to serve as the President's principal national intelligence advisor, overseeing and coordinating the foreign and domestic activities of the U.S. intelligence community. The new law also establishes the National Counterterrorism Center designed to serve as a central knowledge bank for information about known and suspected terrorists and to coordinate and monitor counterterrorism plans and activities of all U.S. government agencies. The Center will also be responsible for preparing the daily terrorism threat report for the President.

OTHER

2004 FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

United States Department of the Treasury. December 2004

<http://fms.treas.gov/fr/04frusg/04frusg.pdf>

[Note: The statements for individual sections of the government -- the legislative and judicial branches, as well as for departments and agencies within the executive branch -- are available in Excel and PDF formats at:

<http://fms.treas.gov/annualreport/index.html>]

This is the most recent edition of the Financial Report of the United States Government, an annual publication formerly known as the "Consolidated Financial Statements". This report is recognized as the official government publication of receipts and outlays. Several major Government bodies rely on data found in this report. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) uses it to serve the needs of Congress; the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) uses the data to review the President's Budget programs; the Government Accountability Office (GAO) uses it to perform audit activities; the various departments and agencies of the Government use it to reconcile their accounts; and the public uses it to review the operations of their Government.

ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION IN THE UNITED STATES. [97-71 GOV]

Harold C. Relyea

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated January 7, 2005

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/97-71.pdf>

The Constitution of the United States makes no specific allowance for any one of the co-equal branches to have access to information held by the others and contains no provision expressly establishing a procedure for, or a right of, public access to government information. Nonetheless, Congress has legislated various public access laws. These include two records access statutes — the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) — and two meetings access statutes — the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b). Moreover, due to the separation of powers model of the U.S. government, inter-branch conflicts over the accessibility of information are neither unexpected nor necessarily destructive. The federal courts, historically, have been reluctant to review and resolve “political questions” involving information disputes between Congress and the executive branch. Although there is considerable inter-branch cooperation, such conflicts doubtless will continue to occur on occasion.

A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

United States Government Printing Office (GPO). Web-posted December 13, 2004

<http://www.gpo.gov/congressional/pdfs/04strategicplan.pdf>

This report sets forth the Government Printing Office’s plans to transform itself from a “19th century, heavy-metal printing operation” into a “nimble 21st century digital information factory”. The goals set forth in this plan include:

- * Developing a flexible digital information content system for Federal documents. Incorporated within this goal are the objectives of: having a single authoritative source from which masters can be made to create printed or digital copies of documents to meet government, library and public needs and; having the flexibility to expand beyond text to include other formats such as full motion video and sound.

- * Preparing and equipping GPO to provide the future services and products required by its Federal customers, including reorganization and staff retraining initiatives.

- * Developing a new model for the Federal Depository Library Program, which increases partner flexibility, including the development of new Web search tools.

CENSUS 2000 SPECIAL REPORTS, WE THE PEOPLE: AGING

Yvonne J. Gist and Lisa I. Hetzel

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. December 21, 2004

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/censr-19.pdf>

This report provides a portrait of the social and economic characteristics of the population aged 65 and over in the United States at the national level. It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000. The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form questionnaire.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE GOVERNMENT: STRUCTURE, LEADERSHIP, INCENTIVES

Robert Klitgaard and Paul C. Light, editors

RAND. Web-posted January 11, 2005

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2005/RAND_MG256.pdf

In 2003, the National Commission on the Public Service, chaired by Paul Volcker, issued a report detailing problems within the federal government today and recommending changes in its organization, leadership, and operations. This report, comprising 13 essays, suggests practical ways to implement the recommendations and defines a research agenda for the future. The report calls for changes in the way senior federal officials are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, and the way other employees are hired, paid and given performance incentives. It also calls on individual federal agencies to tailor their organizational structures, policies and leadership development programs to individual agency needs.

STATE OF THE STATES 2005. A REPORT ON STATE POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS

Stateline.org. January 2005

<http://www.pewtrusts.com/pdf/stateofthestates2005.pdf>

This annual report provides an overview of the most significant developments faced by the individual states of the United States on issues such as education, health care, social matters, fiscal management and homeland security in the last twelve months. For each of these categories, the report notes state initiatives and levels of funding for

2004, as well as likely developments in 2005. The report also includes profiles of governors elected in the November 2004 election.

TRENDS 2005. [Trends in U.S. Society]

Pew Research Center. January 24, 2005

<http://pewresearch.org/trends/trends2005.pdf>

This report contains seven chapters with key findings on a number of key issues in U.S. life. Some of the highlights are the following:

- The American Public: Opinions and Values
- Religion & Public Life: A Faith-Based Partisan Divide
- Media: More Voices, Less Credibility
- Internet: The Mainstreaming of Online Life
- Hispanics: A People in Motion
- States: Policy Innovation Amid Fiscal Constraint
- Global Opinion: The Spread of Anti-Americanism

WE THE PEOPLE: WOMEN AND MEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Reneé E. Spraggins

United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. January 27, 2005

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/censr-20.pdf>

This report provides a portrait of women in the United States and highlights comparisons with men at the national level. It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000. The data contained in this report are based on the samples of households who responded to the 1970, 1980, and 1990 censuses and Census 2000.